Vocabulary

It is important to understand each of these words in order to think and talk about detecting key information.

analyze  

to think about the parts or features of something to help you understand how it works

current situation  

what is happening now

detect  

to notice or discover something; to identify

evidence  

facts, proof

irrelevant  

not important for a certain purpose; unrelated; beside the point

issue (n)  

a problem; a situation; a topic to think about

organize  

to arrange things thoughtfully and logically

outline (n)  

a list of the main points of an article, a report or a lecture

prioritize  

to sequence things according to their importance or need for immediate attention

summarize  

to repeat information briefly, keeping the main ideas and leaving out the details
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task 1</th>
<th>Choose words from the box to complete these sentences correctly. Use each word only once.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>analyze</strong>  <strong>detect</strong>  <strong>irrelevant</strong>  <strong>organize</strong>  <strong>prioritize</strong>  <strong>current</strong>  <strong>evidence</strong>  <strong>issue</strong>  <strong>outline</strong>  <strong>summarize</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Making an _________________________ of a chapter is a good way to learn the information.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>What _________________________ was found at the crime scene?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The _________________________ weather situation makes driving dangerous.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>A good detective can quickly _________________________ key facts or clues.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>We used a microscope to _________________________ the structure of the cells.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Please _________________________ your report with one sentence.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>What is the main _________________________ in the election?</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Nurses in an emergency room need to _________________________ their patients for medical treatment.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>“What you did instead of doing your homework is _________________________ to me,” said Mrs. Gibbon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Please _________________________ all of your tools and chemicals before you begin your experiment.</td>
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**Task 2**

**Key information** about a topic is important. It is what you need to know. It is essential.

**Related information** about a topic is true, but it isn’t important to know. It is nonessential.

**Irrelevant information** is unimportant. It might not even be about the topic.

- Use this diagram to sort key information from related or irrelevant information.

![Diagram showing key information in the center, related information in the middle, and irrelevant information outside]

**Key information** is the bull’s-eye of the target. It is essential or necessary to know for the topic or purpose.

**Related information** is about the topic, but it isn’t essential for the topic or purpose.

**Irrelevant information** is information you don’t need that isn’t about the specific topic or purpose.
Task 3

Identify the sentence that doesn’t give relevant information about the topic.

1. It will take me an hour to do my homework tonight. It rained today. I’ll start my homework at 4:00.

2. Tracy sits next to me in Spanish. I’m excited about Saturday. Our club is having a car wash in the parking lot of Ryan’s Lumber.

3. Do you have an extra pencil? I forgot to bring one today. Chad’s stepmom bakes really good cookies.

4. Maria is in training for track. She jogs eight miles a day. We had a great track team last year.

5. The weather forecast predicts that the hurricane will be a Level 4 when it hits land. It’s already 3:00. All the residents of the barrier islands need to evacuate immediately.

6. We’re going swimming at the community pool. I’m so hungry! Remember to bring a beach towel.

7. Have you seen my book bag? We have a geometry test today. I hope the test is easier than the last one was.

8. Make sure you have all the parts before you assemble the model. I hate the smell of the glue. Follow each direction in order and check each step before you go on to the next direction.

9. Kelsey wants to be a veterinarian. She’s always taking care of hurt animals. It’s almost time to go home.

10. Call me on my cell tonight. What’s that noise? We can do our science homework together by phone.

11. For my science project, I’m doing tests on drinking water. I’m going to use tap water and different brands of bottled water. I think I’m getting a cold.

12. Go two blocks south. I heard about Steph and Dave. Then turn right on Hansen and look for the big red sign.
Task 4

Identify the two sentences in each group that include key information about the topic.

1. The monarch butterfly follows a migration pattern that covers many miles. Interestingly, no one butterfly makes a round-trip migration. It is too cold in Antarctica to grow milkweed.

2. The Golden Gate Bridge was built in just four years. I’ve been across it many times. The bridge opened to traffic in 1937.

3. Our class is selling wrapping paper to raise money. My favorite is the one with sports equipment. We’re hoping to buy new basketballs with the money we raise.

4. A puggle is a new breed of dog. I used to have a dog. A puggle is a mix of a pug and a beagle.

5. Biting your fingernails is a dirty habit that can make you sick. It puts germs right into your mouth. You should try my easy recipe for fudge.

6. Grant’s Tomb is much more than the place where President Grant was entombed. It has many cultural events, including musket firing demonstrations with period costumes. Many people like to visit Washington, D.C. in the springtime.

7. The Canadian flag has a maple leaf. Why do the stars on the U.S. flag have five points instead of six? Betsy Ross, who sewed the first flag for George Washington, told him five-pointed stars were easier to stitch.

8. Mount Rushmore is the world’s largest one-piece sculpture. Pennsylvania has many hiking trails. Few people realize that the artist died before his sculpture was finished.

9. I’m going on a diet this week. The Statue of Liberty is a colossal symbol of freedom and democracy. Her face is over eight feet tall and her waist is 35 feet.

10. There are many superstitions about the ladybug. We have lots of them in our garden this year. In Sweden, if a ladybug lands on a maiden’s hand, she will soon be married.
These are steps to do projects. Identify the steps that are irrelevant for each project.

1 Pizza Delivery
   ___ Some pizzas are spicier than others.
   ___ Decide what kind of pizza you want to order.
   ___ Find the phone number of the pizzeria you prefer.
   ___ Call the pizzeria and order your pizza.
   ___ Most pizzas are round but some are square.
   ___ Be ready to pay the delivery person when your pizza arrives.
   ___ Tip the deliverer.

2 Chicago Hot Dog
   ___ Boil or steam a Vienna Beef hot dog.
   ___ Place the cooked hot dog into a poppy seed hot dog bun.
   ___ Some people prefer plain buns, but I prefer poppy seed buns.
   ___ Drizzle mustard on top of the hot dog.
   ___ Add chopped onions, sweet pickle relish, a dill pickle spear and chopped tomato.
   ___ You need to be hungry to eat one of these.
   ___ Add sport pepper and a dash of celery salt, but do not add ketchup.

3 Repotting a Plant
   ___ Make sure the new pot is slightly larger than the pot the plant is in now.
   ___ Put some charcoal or small pebbles in the bottom of the new pot.
   ___ Some plants need watering more often than others.
   ___ Turn the plant upside down and let it fall into your hand gently.
   ___ Turn the plant right-side up and set it in the new pot.
   ___ Fill the gap between the old dirt and the new pot with fresh potting soil.
   ___ Tap the soil to make the surface even.
   ___ Ivy is one of the hardiest house plants.
   ___ Water the plant.

4 Doing Laundry
   ___ Sort the dirty laundry by color and washing needs.
   ___ Put detergent into the washer.
   ___ Do you do your own laundry?
   ___ Place one load of clothes into the washer.
   ___ Set the controls for water level, temperature and washing speed.
   ___ Start the washer.
   ___ Our washer takes about 25 minutes to do one load.
Task 6

Identify the most important information in each sentence.

1. Carla, my cousin, broke her leg while she was skating with her friends.

2. The picnic starts at 11:00 a.m., but if you don’t want to be there on time, we can go at noon.

3. One ticket costs $5 and you can get a discount if you buy 10 for $40.

4. I had no cavities at my checkup, but the dental hygienist said that I need to brush my teeth more carefully.

5. We usually take the bus to go to the museum, but today we’re driving because we need to bring a stroller for my aunt’s baby.

6. Grandma’s favorite winter sweater has a hole in it from moths.

7. I need a pencil for the math test because mine fell out of my pocket.

8. Candidate Nelson promised to cut taxes, increase the minimum wage and cure cancer if he wins the election.

9. I ordered a gift for Grandpa online, but I didn’t pay extra for gift wrapping, so please put a bow on the package for me, Grandma.

10. When we have good weather, our dog, T-Rex, likes to dig holes in the lot next door to our building.

11. Derek got a rash on his face from his new glasses because they have metal rims, and he has an allergy to the nickel in some metals.
Imagine you are the judge in a trial. It is your responsibility to decide which evidence is key or relevant to the case and which evidence is not relevant.

The case is about shoplifting. The accused, Diana, is charged with stealing eight cashmere sweaters from Swift Department Store on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 4th.

- Make a check mark beside each piece of information that is relevant to this case. Then explain why it is relevant.

___ 1 Diana is 15 years old.

___ 2 Mrs. Perry, store detective, saw Diana leave the store, carrying a large shopping bag that looked full.

___ 3 Diana is allergic to cashmere.

___ 4 It is Diana’s birthday tomorrow.

___ 5 Diana has signed permission to use her mother’s charge card.

___ 6 Diana sometimes sells things on the Internet.

___ 7 Diana had a receipt in her purse for the eight sweaters. They were charged to her mother.

___ 8 Diana’s mother had a printout of the list of sweaters she asked Diana to buy for her to give as gifts to relatives.
On Sunday, over 300 people gathered in Pine Run for the 37th annual Pine Run Ham Radio Amateur Club Flea Market. Shoppers and traders came from all over New England for this event. Bert Graff, who organized the event, said, “It was a big success, but we get fewer people every year. It’s a shame. I’ve been active in this group for over 40 years. I just wish more young people would take up this hobby. Our group will die out without more young folks.”

The government depends on ham operators to help when the Internet is down. When Hurricane Katrina brought down communication towers in 2005, ham operators were a key source of communication.

The Pine Run event included computers and other modern electronic devices to draw more young people. “It’s tough competing with high-tech devices,” noted Graff. “Most kids think things that were invented before the computer are dull and useless. We want them to know that’s not true.”

Barney Clark spent all day at the event. “It’s easy to be a ham operator,” he said. “You take a test on electronics and how to run a ham radio station. If you pass, you get a license with your own call letters.” Clark plans to campaign at local high schools next year. He hopes he will be able to recruit some young ham operators.